AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 67 is amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-66 (Cancelled)

Claim 67 (Currently amended). A method for producing a protein, comprising:

(a) culturing a bacterial host cell comprising at least two copies of the gene encoding the protein stably integrated into the chromosome in different positions, wherein at least one DNA construct is integrated into a non-functional conditionally essential chromosomal gene(s) of the bacterial host, wherein the DNA construct comprises:

(i) a non-functional copy of the conditionally essential gene(s); and

(ii) at least one copy of the gene encoding ~~me~~ the protein located between the non-functional copy and a DNA fragment homologous to a DNA sequence located adjacent to the non-functional conditionally essential gene(s) of the chromosome;

wherein a first recombination between the non-functional conditionally essential gene and the non-functional copy results in a functional conditionally essential gene(s) located on the chromosome, and wherein the bacterial host cell had a copy of the gene of interest in the chromosome prior to integration of the at least one DNA construct; and

(b) recovering the protein.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 67, wherein the host cell further comprises at least one additional DNA construct(s) integrated into at least one different non-functional conditionally essential chromosomal gene(s) of the host cell.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 67, wherein a second recombination between the DNA fragment and the DNA sequence located adjacent to the non-functional conditionally essential gene(s) occurs.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 69, wherein the DNA construct further comprises at least one marker gene which is located in the construct so that it is removed from the chromosome by the second recombination.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 70, wherein the at least one marker gene confers resistance to an antibiotic selected from the group consisting of chloramphenicol, kanamycin, ampicillin, erythromycin, spectinomycin and tetracycline.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 67, wherein the DNA construct further comprises at least one marker gene located between the non-functional copy and the DNA fragment, and wherein the at least one marker gene is located between nucleotide sequences that are recognized by a resolvase.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the at least one marker gene is excised from the chromosome by the resolvase.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 67, wherein the non-functional conditionally essential chromosomal gene(s) of the host cell are non-functional due to a partial deletion of the gene(s), or an introduction of one or more mutations in the gene(s).

Claim 75 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 67, wherein the host cell is a *Bacillus* host cell.

Claim 76 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 75, wherein the host cell is a *Bacillus licheniformis* host cell.

Claim 77 (Previously Presented). A method for producing a bacterial host cell comprising at least two copies of a gene of interest stably integrated into the chromosome at different positions, comprising:

(a) introducing a DNA construct into the bacterial host cell, wherein the host cell comprises at least one chromosomal copy of the gene of interest and one or more non-functional conditionally essential chromosomal gene(s), and wherein the DNA construct comprises:

(i) a non-functional copy of the conditionally essential gene(s); and

(ii) at least one copy of the gene of interest located between the non-functional copy and a DNA fragment homologous to a DNA sequence located adjacent to the non-functional conditionally essential gene(s) of the chromosome;

wherein a first recombination between the non-functional conditionally essential gene and the non-functional copy results in a functional conditionally essential gene(s) located on the chromosome, whereby a bacterial host cell comprising at least two copies of a gene of interest stably integrated into the chromosome at different positions is produced.

Claim 78 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 77, further comprising integrating at least one additional DNA construct(s) into at least one different non-functional conditionally essential chromosomal gene(s) of the host cell.

Claim 79 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 77, further comprising a second recombination between the DNA fragment and the DNA sequence located adjacent to the non-functional conditionally essential gene(s).

Claim 80 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 79, wherein the DNA construct further comprises at least one marker gene which is located in the construct so that it is removed from the chromosome by the second recombination.

Claim 81 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 80, wherein the at least one marker gene confers resistance to an antibiotic selected from the group consisting of chloramphenicol, kanamycin, ampicillin, erythromycin, spectinomycin and tetracycline.

Claim 82 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 77, wherein the DNA construct further comprises at least one marker gene located between the non-functional copy and the DNA fragment, and wherein the at least one marker gene is located between nucleotide sequences that are recognized by a resolvase.

Claim 83 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 82, further comprising the excision of the at least one marker gene from the chromosome by the resolvase.

Claim 84 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 77, wherein the non-functional conditionally essential chromosomal gene(s) of the host cell are non-functional due to a partial deletion of the gene(s), or an introduction of one or more mutations in the gene(s).

Claim 85 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 77, wherein the host cell is a *Bacillus* host cell.

Claim 86 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 85, wherein the host cell is a *Bacillus licheniformis* host cell.

Claim 87 (Previously Presented). A host cell produced by the method of claim 77.